

News



Attack thwarted...
Iraqi truck stopped and searched. Wide variety of weapons found. See story on Page 4A.



Earth Day...
Earth Day is Apr. 22 this year. Sec. of the Army and Chief of Staff comments on Page 1B.

Post Update

Daylight Savings Time...
Daylight Savings Time begins Apr. 3 at 2 a.m.
Plan ahead and prepare your work schedules accordingly.
Employees working a night shift are NOT allowed 1 hour of administrative leave. Check with your supervisor for more information.

Easter Service...
The Fort Stewart Easter Sunrise Service will be at 6 a.m. INSIDE Marne Chapel, Bldg. 610. For more information, call 767-8801

Iraqi casualty...
The Department of Defense announced the death of a 3rd Infantry Division Soldier who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.
Pfc. Lee A. Lewis Jr., 28, of Norfolk, Va., died Mar. 18 in Sadr City, Iraq when his patrol was attacked by enemy small arms fire.
Lewis was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry.

Bright ideas...
Had any good ideas lately? Share them! You can use the Army Suggestion program through AKO or by calling Anti-Dumb Things at 767-6228.
There is also the Interactive Customer Evaluation program you can access through Web site www.ice.disa.mil.
For more information on these programs, contact Joyce Bailey at 767-6300 or through e-mail to -baileyjm2@stewart.army.mil.

Guide

Voices & Viewpoints 2A
3ID In Brief 12A
Police Report 11A
Worship Schedule 3B
Chaplain's Corner 3B
Birth announcements 4B
Marne TV Schedule 4B
Movie Schedule 4B



Easter eggs...
Children of all ages took part in the annual Fort Stewart Easter Egg hunt here, garrison CSM Luis A. Garcia receives his very own basket from Dagmar Olinger. Why? Read the full story on Page 1B.

Secretary of Army pays visit to Camp Liberty

Spc. Erin Robicheaux
Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division welcomed a distinguished guest for breakfast Mar. 18 at the Tiger Den Dining Facility. Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Francis Harvey, paid a visit to the troops serving in Baghdad to find out from them what the experience has been like.
Spc. Jon Vandebogert from Milwaukee, Wis., B Battery 126th Field Artillery, attached to 1st Battalion, 141st Field

Artillery, 256th Brigade Combat Team, was chosen by his leadership and peers to represent them for the event.
Vandebogert was one of four Soldiers chosen by the 256th and said that in a one-



Spc. Erin Robicheaux

Spc. Jon Vandebogert is all smiles as the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Francis Harvey, inquires about his life and his duties. The Secretary paid a surprise visit to Camp Liberty.

on-one conversation with Harvey, he was made to feel that he was an important part of the global war on terror.
“He was very interested in my civilian life and asked me a lot of questions. When he realized that I was a National Guard Soldier, he told me he’s noticed that the Army is truly becoming an Army of One, and that a lot of National Guard troops are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Vandebogert.
Harvey later recalled a realization that he’d recently had while attending a brief-
See Army ————— **Page 10A**

Arriving on scene, 546th reactivated at Fort Stewart

The “Regulators” reactivated after 23 years hiatus. Reconstituted at Fort Stewart — serving with the 3rd MP BN.

Story and Photos by
Marc McCormick
Managing Editor

The inclement weather was no distraction as the 546th Military Police Company was formally activated as a unit during a ceremony held in Woodruff Theater at Fort Stewart Mar. 16.
In his welcoming remarks, Col. John M. Kidd, garrison commander, praised the unit for its professionalism and unit history dating back to 1943. Col. Kidd also noted that as part of Fort Stewart’s 3rd Military Police Battalion, he was confident the 546th would attend to their duties in a superior, professional manner he has come to expect.
Maj. Thomas H. Byrd, commander, 3rd Military Police Battalion, addressed the 546th and attendees by saying, ““Today’s activation is but a single event in a larger expansion of the Military Police Corps throughout the Army, which serves as a testament to the great Soldiers and leaders who comprise our Regiment. The 546th MP Co. has a proud history that dates back to World War II and stretches from the deserts of Africa, the mountains of Italy, to the heartland of America and Fort Sill.”
The 546th was originally constituted as the 1st Platoon, 444th Military Police Prisoner of War Processing Company Jun. 7, 1943 in North Africa. The company went on to serve throughout Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The company was redesignated as the 546th Mar. 11, 1953. Following deactivation in 1983, it was not until the Mar. 16th ceremony that the unit came back into the Army inventory.

The stand-up of the unit required exacting detail work to ensure the smooth transition to an active unit. As Maj. Byrd put it, “With today’s activation, these troops join the finest Regiment in the Army. They are trained, highly motivated and superbly led by two leaders, Capt. Babara Kent and 1st Sgt. Williard Smoot, who are at the top of their profession and who have performed small miracles everyday to activate this unit. Both of them have already demonstrated time and time again the ability to tackle complex issues and produce outstanding results. I have no reservations to deploy this unit with these two outstanding leaders, for they were the right leaders at the right time for the right job in standing up the 546th MP Co. Capt. Kent and 1st Sgt. Smoot, you and your unit are joining a battalion that has developed a reputation for excellence. I am confident that you will continue this legacy and lead the 546th MP Co. with distinction.”
In the conclusion of his remarks to the unit, Maj. Byrd said, “Finally, to the Soldiers of the 546th MP Co., I’d like to officially welcome you and your unit to the rolls of the MP Corps. Soon, your mission will be to deploy and take the fight to our nation’s enemies. Your missions will often be difficult and demanding but I have every confidence you will rise to the occasion.”
Known as the “Regulators,” the 546th immediately assumed their duties as part of the garrison mission to protect and defend.
“What an honor it is to be a Marne Soldier and part of the “Regulator” activation ceremony,” Maj. Byrd said.



546th MP Co. Structure

Commander —
Capt. Babara Kent
1st Sgt. —
1st Sgt. Willard A. Smoot

HQ Platoon Sgt. —
Staff Sgt. Eric M. Varela

1st Platoon Leader —
2nd Lt. Megan M. Flynt
1st Platoon Sergeant —
Staff Sgt. Jermaine Hallums

2nd Platoon Leader —
2nd Lt. Shane P. Shipshock
2nd Platoon Sergeant —
Sgt. First Class Mark J. Obey

3rd Platoon Leader —
2nd Lt. Lionel Nolasco
3rd Platoon Sergeant —
Staff Sgt. Scott H. Nelson



Capt. Barbara Kent presented her military police company to the Fort Stewart command and community during a formal ceremony Mar. 16.

Despite dangerous odds Iraqi soldiers continue training with U.S. forces

Pfc. Dan Balda
4th BCT PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Even as Iraqi Soldiers train with U.S. Soldiers to secure a new future for their country, they cannot forget the dangers which lurk in the background.
“There is a list for people who are in the (Iraqi

National Guard) that the terrorists want to kill,” said an interpreter with the 40th Iraqi Army Brigade. “My name is second on that list. If somebody kills me they will get \$1,000.”

The interpreter, speaking on condition of anonymity, discussed differences between Iraqi armies of the past and the present as he participated in reflexive live-fire training given by Task Force Baghdad Soldiers March 12 at Camp Independence.
His U.S. trainers had nothing but praise for the Iraqi forces.
“We are teaching the ING how to do reflexive fire,” Staff Sgt. Pete Peters, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment, said. “It’s the same training all the Soldiers in the 3rd Infantry Division receive before they come over here to Iraq. We do this training so that they can go out on the Iraqi streets and do patrols on their own.”
Even though 4/64 has been working with this group for a short while, they have been able to focus on more advanced training because the previous American unit, the 1st Cavalry Division, did such a great job with the ING, said Peters, a native of South Portland, Maine. “It’s been real easy for us to just jump in and continue their training. 1st Cav. did a great job of
See Iraq ————— **Page 5A**



Pfc. Dan Balda

Staff Sgt. Pete Peters teaches an Iraqi National Guardsman the proper posture during reflexive live fire training.



Spc. Brian Schroeder

Knock, knock...
A fire team from 40th Iraqi Army Brigade enter a makeshift house during their close quarters combat training at FOB Hawk.

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Army Secretary — installations to receive higher priority for funding

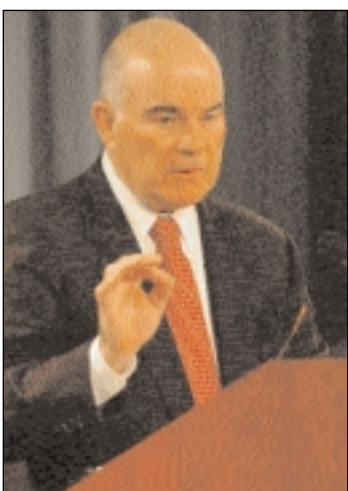
The Army has begun implementing a new policy that will increase annual funding for installations. Army leaders have set a goal of funding installations at an annual rate of 90 percent of validated requirements for base operations services and for sustainment, restoration and modernization. The Army will continue to program to the goal of 95 percent for SRM set by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The new policy will increase funding for installations. The Army Budget Office will distribute the funding in phases through the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the Installation Management Agency.

Funds will come from other parts of the Army's budget as the Army identifies programs lagging in execution during its annual budget review. The new 90-90 funding renews the Army's commitment to improving the quality of life for our Soldiers and their families. Funding installations to 90 percent of requirements provides a more predictable level of funding giving garrison commanders more control in managing their communities.

Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey has placed well being and quality of life for Soldiers and families as the top priority for the Army, saying, "Soldiers are the centerpiece of our formations so nothing can be more important than a Soldier; nothing can be more important than the family."

"Our installations serve as our



Official Photo

Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey fields questions in the pentagon press briefing room Mar. 23.

flagships of readiness," said Army Chief of Staff General Peter J. Schoomaker. "The environment in which our Soldiers train, our civilians work, and our families live plays a key role in attracting, recruiting, and retaining the high quality people the Army needs. "

"The Army leadership has made an important decision that recognizes the vital role installations play in the Global War on Terrorism," said IMA director Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson.

IMA planners are working to execute the new funding for maximum impact on the installations. Funding will be released through a phased plan over the balance of this year and through an annual funding program for future years.

Army Sec. reports on new policy for funds

Staff Sgt. Carmen L. Burgess
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army has implemented a new policy that will increase annual funding for installations, Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey said today.

Army leaders have set a goal of funding installations at an annual rate of 90 percent of validated requirements for base operations services and for sustainment, restoration and modernization, he said.

"Well-being of Soldiers is a number-one priority for me," Harvey said. "We decided to fund 90 percent of both what is called the 'BOS' and SRM.... This is a significant change from past policy."

Harvey said the Army will also continue an aggressive barracks modernization program to bring all Army barracks up to the current standard.

"I want that cleared up this year," he said. "We can't ask our Soldiers to go into harm's way and then ask them to live in substandard housing." The Army will continue to program the goal of 95 percent for SRM set by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The new BOS and SRM policy will increase funding for installations. The Army Budget Office will distribute the funding in phases through the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the Installation Management Agency.

Harvey said the funds will come from other parts of the Army's budget as the Army identifies programs lagging in execution during its annual budget review.

"We have reprogramming flexibility," he said. "I just reprioritized the funding." He said the funding will be provided in a number of phases.

IMA will program the funds to provide infrastructure upgrades and services that have been most lacking during recent months.

Funding installations to 90 percent of requirements provides a more predictable level of funding that gives garrison commanders more control in managing their communities, he said.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker has also supported the funding change.

Marne Voices

The **Frontline**

Readers respond to the question:

"What is your first impression of the new Army uniforms?"

" I like them — they're really comfortable."

Pfc. Josh Callahan
HHC, 48th Bde



"I like them. It seems like they're a lot more lightweight."

Spc. Andrew Cline
C Co., 2-130th Inf. Bn.
Illinois National Guard



"They're a lot more comfortable and a lot more lightweight. They let a lot more air into them."

Spc. Mike Elliott
C Co., 2-130th Inf. Bn.
Illinois National Guard



"They're good, they're comfortable and they've got a lot of velcro."

Spc. Marc Massey
HHC, 48th Bde.



"They do alright. They're loose fitting and they feel comfortable. The pockets are the good things."

Sgt. Mikal Washington
C Co., 2-130th Inf. Bn.
Illinois National Guard



"I like them. They're cool. They're new."

Spc. John Wimmersberg
C Co., 2-130th Inf. Bn.
Illinois National Guard



Computers allow instant e-mail, Web site support for Soldiers

Marc McCormick
Managing Editor

One of the marvels of the modern age is the Internet. Equally important, however, is the advance of computers that have placed the means of accessing and using the internet in literally everyone's hands, even if they have to visit a library.

By products of all this encompass such things as pop-ups, viruses, bells, whistles, alarms, etc. Firewalls keep us out. Firewalls let us in. We are constantly reminded through our paranoid channels that "damage" can be done to our credit, our personal information, our bank accounts; it just leaves one exhausted.

Families of military members who operate their own Web sites are as vulnerable as anyone else. There is nothing the Army can do to protect you from the callousness of other Web site surfers.

Expect the worst. If you have a Web site, chances are there is someone with an ax to grind who will take exception to the very idea you exist. Hate is alive and well on the internet.

If you maintain a Web site, be prepared for great support and fearful hate. There are people in the world who have nothing better to do than let you know what they think of you regardless of the innocence of your motives.

Once you have placed yourself on the net, you have just become a citizen of the world. Anyone can now reach out and touch you and don't believe that



File Photo

Web mail services differ depending on your service provider. Filtering should be used for unwanted e-mail.

just because you have no e-mail contact on your site that you can't be found.

We all wish that individuals could operate their sites in safety and security. For the most part, that is true. Every so often, though, someone gets an example of the vitriol our fellow citizens can spew out. Take it for what it is; enjoy the good parts of maintaining a site; and remember, not everything you know should be put on your site.

Your Soldier may have exciting news and a viewpoint relating to his area of operation but common sense should tell you - will publishing this on the Web compromise him, his unit and the Army's operation in the Global War on Terror. To parallel an old homily used by the government during World War II - Loose Lips Sink Ships; the Web respects no confidences.

Legal Notices

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. Danny L. Anderson**, 26th FSB, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Leyland, 2-3 BTB, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-7484. (3)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. Carlton Newman**, b Co, 1-115th IN (L) Building 10213, 15th Street, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Nathan A. Harlan, Executive Officer, B Co., 1-115th IN (L) Building 10213, 15th Street, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-6153. (3)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Adriana N. Salem**, A Co. 3FSB, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Daniel Presutti, D Battery, 1-41 FA, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-7047 or 272-7377. (3)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. Lee Arthur Lewis**, 3-15 IN BN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 2ndt Lt. Saputo, D Battery, 2-3 BTB RD, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-7484 or 370-7520. (1)

The Frontline

894 William H. Wilson Ave.
Bldg. 600C
Ft. Stewart
Hinesville, Ga. 31314

MILITARY NEWS: 767-3440
ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526
THE Frontline OFFICE: 767-8072

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the **Frontline** are not necessarily the official views of, or are endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Forces Command. It is published weekly by the Public

3RD INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER
MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM G. WEBSTER JR.

3rd Inf. Div. PAO — Lt. Col. Clifford J. Kent
Div. NCOIC — Master Sgt. Gregory Kaufman
3rd Inf. Div. — Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
3rd Inf. Div. — Pfc. Ricardo Branch
1st Bde. — Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
2nd Bde. — Spc. Ben Brody
3rd Bde. — Pvt. James E. Lewis
4th Bde. — Staff Sgt. R. James Piper
4th Bde. — Pvt. Dan Balda

INSTALLATION COMMANDER
COL. JOHN M. KIDD

Consolidated Public Affairs Office

Director — Lt. Col. Robert Whetstone
Deputy Director — Richard Olson
Command Information - Jim Jeffcoat

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor — Marc McCormick

Editor — Sgt. James Strine
Assignments Editor — Jennifer Wingfield

Hunter Branch Office

Chief — Steven Hart
Staff writer — Catherine Caruso
Staff writer — Nancy Gould

Advertising Staff

Advertising Mgr. — Jessa Kajencki
Frontline Prod. Mgr. — Juanita Vandenbosch

Voice your
opinion!
Write a letter to
the editor!

Send to:

Public Affairs Office

Attn: The Frontline, Editor

894 William H. Wilson Ave.

Building 600C

Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-4941

or fax it to 912-767-9366.

Affairs Office, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-5000. All editorial content of the Frontline newspaper is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 3d Infantry Division and is printed by Morris Newspaper Corporation of Hinesville, Inc., a private firm in no

way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Stewart, Georgia. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. Subscription rates ar \$9 - 3 months, \$16 - six months and \$30 for 12 months. Rates are Third Class mail inside the continental United States.

Public Order Battalions...

Helping to provide training for a safe, secure Iraq

Story and photos by
Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st BCT Public Affairs

FOB BRASSFIELD-MORA, SAMARRA, Iraq — All over Iraq, Coalition Forces are working with Iraqi forces to rebuild the country's infrastructure. This effort includes training and employing different types of Iraqi forces such as police, public order battalions and Ministry of Interior Commandos.

Along with security forces, local Iraqis are also at work trying to rebuild their towns and cities. The POB helps this by providing security.

"The POB is an element assigned to the Ministry of Interior," said Staff Sgt. Brian Little, a U.S. Army National Guard Soldier working as POB liaison with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor. "They are trained like police, but they receive a little additional training. Their primary focus is to establish control and stabilization in areas where the normal Iraqi police haven't been able to. (It is) a unit that has been organized to respond to a large civil disturbance."

The POB's tactics for establishing order are different from a regular police unit. They take more of a military approach to their work, Little said.

Their operations include cordon and search tactics, vehicle and pedestrian checkpoints and other missions that Coalition Forces are currently doing to establish security in Iraq, said Little, who is a police officer from Staten Island, New York.

The POB receives the same training as other Coalition elements before going on patrols in their prospective destinations, said 1st Lt. Barry Humphrey, fire direction officer.

"We're teaching these guys police tactics and some infantry



Members of 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor, check one of their field devices as they operate in a Baghdad neighborhood.

tactics," Humphrey said. "These guys are fairly young, and some of them are prior service. Right now we are teaching them to police up Samarra and take back the city (from the insurgents) on their own."

"Prior to coming to us, (the POB) went through a Joint Forces Academy with Australians and U.S. forces," Little said. "They also went through a police academy and once they arrived here, international police advisors and U.S. forces trained them in close-quarter battle, clearing rooms, cordon and search operations and short-range marksmanship."

The training started off slow, Humphrey, the native of Montgomery, Ala. said, but the POB has been progressing well and soon it won't need help from the Coalition.

"At first it was kind of rough," Humphrey said. "We try to take them through a crawl, walk and run phase. Right now they are at

the walk stage. Overall it's going pretty good."

While the POB is in charge of its own missions, Coalition Forces help when on patrol, Humphrey said. He added that since the Iraqi forces are fairly new at what they are doing, there are still a few small corrections that need to be made before they take total control of their missions.

"When we work with the POB, we try to help in planning and executing their missions," Little said. "They take most of their mission tasking from their own chain of command, with a little additional mission tasking from (us). We try to meld the two together so we can work as effectively as possible."

In some cases, Coalition Forces' help is needed, but in other cases, the POB can do the job more effectively than any other element.

"There are some missions (the POB) are not capable of performing," Little said. "There are other missions that they are more capa-



Public Order Battalions work closely with neighborhoods developing relationships which provide valuable military intelligence.

ble of performing than any other unit we have on the ground.

They are most effective particularly in missions involving humanitarian aid, intelligence gathering and investigations.

We have been very successful in going into certain neighborhoods and establishing a rapport (with the locals)."

The reputation gained from helping people leads to bigger and better things, such as capturing known insurgents in certain areas, Little said.

"On occasion we have been informed where (improvised explosive devices) were located, who planted the IEDs and where that person was," Little said. "We were able to go to the house and make a detention. I don't think that many forces are able to do that as effectively as ours are."

They bring a degree of trust to the neighborhood that the people there don't necessarily have with the Iraqi army or the U.S. Army. When they see their own people on the ground in a policing role as opposed to a military role, mentally they're more comfortable with that."

One of the most important aspects the POB uses to gain peoples' trust is through open communication.

"We try to get the POB to focus every mission on having open dialogue with the populace," Little said. "We teach them to use courtesy and respect when dealing with the people, but at the same time be able to respond aggressively when engaged. They've been successful so far. The people respond well."

The POB uses presence patrols to get in touch with local Iraqis.

The patrols are important because people get to meet the POB and interact with them.

These patrols are essential to bond the POB with the people.

"We went on a meet-and-greet mission," Little said. "The POB was able to talk with people, go into stores and spend some of the money they have been making. This helps us in the community because the people get to the point where they appreciate us coming there for the security we provide and also for the boost to the economy."

The relationship the POB develops with the Iraqis is one that

needs to be consistent. Once the trust is built, it is important to continue that relationship as often as possible to make the counter-insurgency missions more successful.

"Once you develop that rapport, you continue to nurture it and foster it," Little said. "Next time you ride in there they might tell you where a cache or an IED builder is. The wealth of information these guys get is phenomenal."

The main aspect of having the Coalition work with the POB is to prepare it to one day be responsible for its own security.

"We're trying to set a tone that the Iraqis are taking back Iraq," Humphrey said. "The U.S. is providing oversight and guidance, but we want the people to know that the police and other forces are taking back Iraq for the betterment of the country."

Right now we are trying to make Samarra and the rest of Iraq a better place to live... Whatever needs to be done, we're here to do it."

Once the Iraqi forces are totally proficient in their duties, the liaisons feel confident their job in Iraq will be finished.

Patrol thwarts potential large insurgent attack



File Photo

A Task Force Baghdad Soldier holds up one of 3 suicide-bomber vests. The vests were part of an explosive and IED-making cache uncovered by Soldiers of the 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment in the Al Rasheed district of Baghdad. The Soldiers found the truck containing the suicide-bomber vests, bike bombs, and other improvised-explosive device making materials thanks to coverage from an airborne platform.



File Photo

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers lay out 107mm Russian rocket warheads. The warheads were part of a cache found inside a truck in the Al Rasheed district of Baghdad. Coverage from an airborne platform on the east side of the Tigris River in southeastern Baghdad tracked the truck's movement until forces arrived on the scene



File Photo

Two bike bombs were part of a cache uncovered in the Al Rasheed district of Baghdad. The Soldiers found the truck containing the bike bombs, suicide-bomber vests, and other improvised-explosive device making materials.

Story and photos from
Task Force Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A potential large scale attack was thwarted Monday in the Al Rasheed district two days before the first session of the Transitional National Assembly.

Soldiers from 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment discovered a truck loaded with terror.

The vehicle contained 13 suicide-bomber vests, 20 x 107mm Russian rocket warheads, 9 improvised grenades, 8 improvised bombs, modified propane tanks filled with explosives, 4 sticks of PE-4, 2x bicycle bombs, couple hundred pounds of propellant, miscellaneous number of electric blasting caps, tools, medical supplies, and improvised-explosive device making equipment.

"This operation was a success because we removed a significant amount of terrorist materials off the street that could have had devastating effects and potentially killed hundreds of innocent people," said Maj. Ross Coffman, 4th Brigade Combat Team Operations Officer. "Top-notch technology and teamwork between the Iraqis and multinational forces paved the way for safer conditions for the first session of the TNA."

The truck was discovered by an airborne platform on the east side of the Tigris River in south-eastern Baghdad.

This coverage tracked the truck's movement until forces could arrive on the scene. The Combined Explosives Exploitation Cell was dispatched to the site and conducted an emergency detonation after exploiting the site.



File Photo

Soldiers found a truck containing bike bombs, suicide-bomber vests, and other improvised-explosive device making materials.

Iraqi police clean up Baghdad — provide security in the city

Frontline Staff

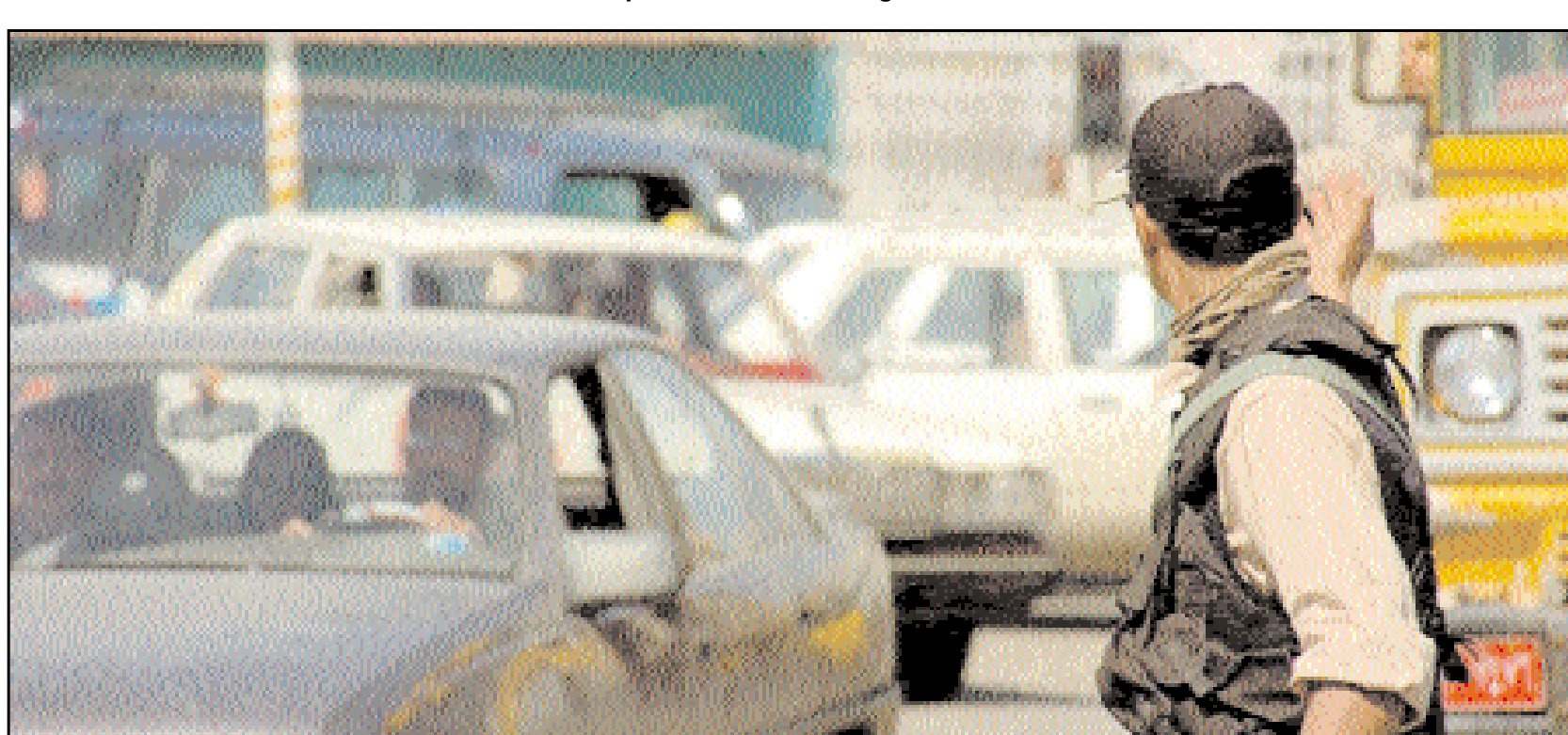
BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi Police continued to assert their influence in Baghdad by responding to several incidents.

Anti-Iraqi forces engaged Iraqi Police in small arms fire around 8 a.m. in central Baghdad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs building.

Iraqi Police entered the building and cordoned off the area.

The police detained one suspect inside the building. After another fire fight outside, they made several other arrests. Iraqi Police also detained two local nationals suspected of placing IEDs. The locals then confessed to placing IEDs and provided explosive suppliers names.

Iraqi Police were successful in protecting the historical seating of the Transitional National Assembly.



File Photo

Iraqi Army Soldiers provide security for the seating of Transitional National Assembly.

Tree dedication ceremony honors lives lost in Iraq

Sgt. James Strine
Frontline Staff

The weather was somber like the mood on Wednesday afternoon.

Fort Stewart officials unveiled stones with ten names beneath ten trees on Warriors' Walk marking 3rd ID heroes, heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom's sake.

The ceremony honored the following Soldiers —

- Capt. Joe F. Lusk, Headquarters and Headquarters

Company, 3rd Aviation

- Sgt. First Class David Salie, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor

- Staff Sgt. Steven Bayow, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry

- Staff Sgt. Chad Lake, Charlie Troop, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry

- Sgt. Rene Knox, Jr., Charlie Troop, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry

- Sgt. Dakota Gooding, Charlie Troop, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry

- Sgt. Daniel Torres, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry

- Cpl. Jacob Palmatier, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry

- Spc. Justin Carter, Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry

- Spc. David Brangman, Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor

"Each of these Soldiers gave so much," said Garrison Commander Col. John M. Kidd during remarks.

"The ten Soldiers we honor

here today represent the best America has to offer," Kidd said. "Each and every one of them is a volunteer. They serve in that most American of traditions: selfless service and sacrifice for others.

"They volunteered to go to faraway places to achieve liberty and democracy, to achieve freedom for people who they have never met, to secure our freedom here at home."

Later, after remarks, a full color guard ceremony carried the passage rights of the heroes across the trees and eventually into the field, away from the pensive crowd.

Each name was read off, and with it, a stone was unveiled to memorialize the commitment for which these Soldiers will be remembered.

Following the ceremony, onlookers walked in and out of new trees and old, as if to pay a personal farewell.

They did this even in the chilly rain. Many left flags, some sprinkled roses; others reflected.

"With the coming of spring, this will be the most beautiful place on our post," Kidd said of Warriors' Walk.

"Even now, these trees are starting to bloom, giving us an indication of how deep their roots are in the soil of America," Col. Kidd said.



MARNE TV

Amidst an eery calm, Soldiers unveiled granite stones which memorialize the fallen.

Iraq — From Page 1A

bringing this group up to where we didn't have to change anything when we took over for them."

Instead of taking an entire battalion of ING soldiers and training them all at the same time, the U.S. Soldiers use the "train the trainer" method.

After learning how to properly apply the training, the assorted Iraqi platoon leaders, platoon sergeants and section sergeants go back to their squads and platoons to share what they have learned with their troops, Peters said.

"They have been getting real good since we've got here," Peters said. "They are real quick learners. They want to succeed and to achieve something special. They have a huge desire to learn."

Capt. Mark McClellan, scout platoon leader for HHC, 4/64, likens their motivation to why people join the U.S. Army but there is an extra incentive.

"They understand that they are here to take their country back from the insurgents and terrorists, and to make Iraq a better place," he said. "I believe that some of them join up because of the money, just like in the U.S. Army, but most do it because they want to help their fellow Iraqis."

The ING interpreter said he's enjoyed working with the Army regardless of the danger.

"I have been working with the Americans for

two years," he said. "It's been very nice. I get to help people and kill terrorists. I like my job. Before, in Saddam's army, nobody really liked their job. In one month, we made two dollars; now I make \$400 a month. It's very different, now I can eat or go out and have fun with people. I love my job a lot."

McClellan has already seen the fruits of his and the ING's labors.

"I've already seen it on Haifa Street," he said. "People are cleaning up their own streets, putting in their own sewer systems. This ING group is the one that cleaned up Haifa Street," he said.

"They are the ones taking grenades and getting shot at, and they have a lot of pride behind what they are doing right now," he said.

McClellan has seen an improvement in their military skills, he said. But the real success is out on the streets.

"You can see how proud they are when they drive around in their trucks with the Iraqi flag flying in the wind, and people in the streets are waving to them," he said.

"One time we came back from a patrol and there were all these children cheering for their troops. You could see the smiles on the Iraqi soldiers. That's why they do this," McClellan said"

Iraqi Soldiers ready for any mission

Spc. Matthew Wester
Task Force Baghdad PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — "This training is good for my soldiers," said Lt. Col. Sabah Kadhemi, commander of the 307th Battalion of the Iraqi army. "If a soldier is not trained, he can't defend his country."

At Hawk Base, near Camp Taji, U.S. Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 1st Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division are doing exactly that — training Iraqis to defend their own country.

The base is staffed with a cadre of Soldiers from 4/1 FA's Alpha and Bravo batteries, who teach the Iraqi soldiers the skills they will need to secure their area of northwest Baghdad.

"The Iraqis complete two weeks of training here," said Capt. Daniel Getchel, a 4/1 FA officer



MARNE TV

Family members placed rose petals on the memorials.

supervising the training at Hawk Base.

Getchel said the Iraqis start with individual skills.

Then, the Iraqi troops move on to squad-level tasks, and finally work on training at the company level.

"We're trying to teach them a certain standard of discipline," Banks said.

The cadre tries to instill discipline in the troops, but doesn't have to spend much time motivating them.

According to Getchel, they are already highly motivated when they arrive for training.

He has also seen an increase in the amount of equipment available to the troops, who are now issued uniforms, physical training clothes, running shoes and two pairs of boots.

The Iraqis break in those new

boots on the training lanes at Hawk Base.

On one of the lanes, the American trainers supervised as an Iraqi army squad cleared a group of buildings of other Iraqi soldiers posing as insurgents.

The cadre acted as observer-controllers and let the Iraqis test their skills.

"This is a squad (situational training exercise)," 1st Lt. John Sackman, an Alpha Battery trainer said.

Like many cadre members, Sackman is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

He worked as a civil affairs officer and thinks his experience with the Iraqi culture has helped him train Iraqi troops and officers.

Sackman underscored one of his main training goals. "We're trying to teach initiative down to the lowest levels."

G2 provides critical military intelligence

Pfc. James Tamez
19th Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In a war zone, intelligence relayed to commanders in a timely manner could be the difference between life and death for many Soldiers.

The G2 section of the 24th Infantry Division is responsible for overseeing Military Intelligence training of the 48th Brigade Combat Team in Fort Stewart, Ga., as they prepare for deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom later this year.

“Our mission in the Military Intelligence arena is to get the best information on the enemy forces out there, whether it is terrorists or anti-Iraqi forces, and give that information to the commander so that he can develop his plan and execute it,” said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Zenyuk, G2 noncommissioned officer in charge, 24th ID.

“We work specifically with the different intelligence Military Occupation Specialties within the (48th BCT) and tailor training specifically for them.”

Zenyuk said the G2 has a two-week time frame to train all the MI Soldiers within the brigade on different areas within the intelligence sector.

“Our primary mission is to prepare them by providing resources and training for the 48th S2 shop,” said Maj. Mark Crisman, G2 officer in charge, 24th ID. “We have established a training plan that covers all of their MI areas, including their human intelligence collectors, their

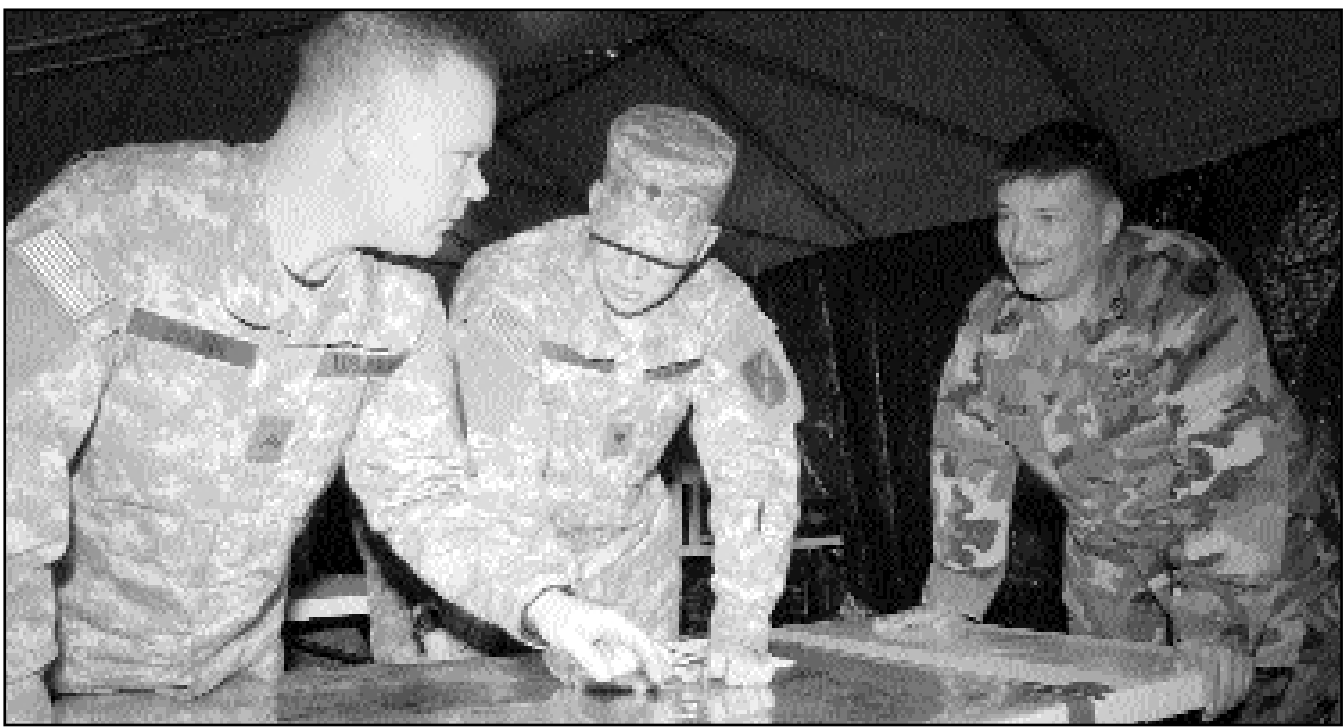
signal intelligence collectors and their regular analysts.” Crisman said the G2 is the directorate of intelligence and security for the 24th ID. The S2 shop performs the same operations, but for the 48th BCT. He also said the G2 shop, which has about 20 Soldiers that handle real world intelligence, training requirements, and personnel security, has a very important and multi-faceted job to do.

“First, we are here to assist the 48th by maintaining a real world idea of what is happening where they are deploying,” Crisman said. “We get information from the unit that is on the ground and we show the 48th what is happening. The second thing we cover is the day-to-day operations within an S2 shop at the brigade level.

We talk about threat tactics, techniques, and procedures, including how (threat forces) are conducting improvised explosive device attacks, how they are conducting mortar attacks and how they are conducting coordinated attacks.”

Zenyuk said the work the G2 is doing is extremely important because of the possible consequences. “It is very important that we be here so that the intelligence folks within the brigade are properly trained,” Zenyuk said. “If we were to send them over unprepared, it could cost Soldiers lives.

Not just the intelligence Soldiers, but also the Soldiers who are on the ground that rely on the intelligence the S2 provides. For us, the goal is to ensure the Soldiers within the brigade, specifically



Pfc. James Tamez

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Zenyuk, G2 NCOIC, 24th ID (right), asks Cpl. Bryan Boling, 248th Military Intelligence Company (left), and Spc. Juan Lopez, Headquarters HHC 48th BCT, about the location of friendly forces on the training map. G2 oversees and assists in the training of the 48th Military Intelligence Soldiers as they prepare for their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

the MI Soldiers, are trained to the best of their ability and are prepared to go to Iraq.”

Zenyuk said the G2 wants to ensure the 48th is prepared for any situation they may face. “The 48th is getting some good training and they are fielding new equipment,” Zenyuk said. “We also provide subject matter experts, who talk to them about what they will be doing in Iraq when they get there and to give them a broader idea of what is going on.” He added the training is focused on areas that will better assist the 48th in their mission.

Much of this training is a shift in focus from when Zenyuk entered the intelligence field roughly 10 years ago.

“Terrorism is a big issue that we didn’t have to deal with to the extent that we are now,” Zenyuk said. “Before 9/11, we focused on large formation, force on force battles. With the environment we are in, we are focusing on small unit, terrorism and individual type missions. We have had to change our train of thought, and that is one of the ways we are developing and changing.”

Crisman agrees with this sentiment. “The fight against terrorism has changed the Army as a whole,” Crisman said. “The Army has changed its perspective since Sept. 11, 2001. As we have mobilized these National Guard units, we’ve learned new things, found better ways to

accomplish the mission and found new training techniques, not just for the S2, but for all sections within the brigade.”

Crisman added the 48th BCT is not the first National Guard unit to deploy under the observation of the 24th ID. Those units include the 30th BCT, N.C.; the 278th BCT, Tenn.; and the 155th BCT, Miss.

Crisman said he takes pride in what is achieved by the Soldiers in the 48th BCT as they prepare for their deployment. “It is an accomplishment when you see a unit come together as a team. To see them come together as a more cohesive military unit than when they arrived is really rewarding.”

Iraqi Special Weapons,training nears halfway point

Army News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq, with some assistance from U.S. trainers, is approaching the halfway point in fielding its Special Weapons and Tactics teams to each governorate.

Seven teams are now trained and equipped; two others are currently in training, according to officials from the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq. The MNSTC-I Civilian Police Assistance Training Team plans to provide a SWAT team for each of 20 major Iraqi cities, with

at least one in each governorate (Iraqi area).

SWAT teams in several major cities are already making a difference, according to reports. SWAT teams were used as quick reaction forces in Najaf and Al Kut during the national elections and in Basra for a major British-sponsored meeting of Shia and Sunni clerics with local officials and tribal leaders.

The Basra SWAT team was also a major player in a successful raid on a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device factory in the city.

Teams are armed with Glock 19 pistols, Binelli

shotguns, AK-47 rifles and flash-bang grenades. Teams are also issued uniforms and protective gear, along with vehicles and radios.

CPATT began training provincial SWAT teams in October.

These teams complement the national-level Emergency Response Unit, officials said, by providing a capability for high-risk arrest and hostage rescue to local police chiefs.

SWAT teams receive four weeks of specialized training. Basic human relations and police conduct are emphasized early in the program, complement-

ed with weapons training, mechanical breaching procedures and close-quarters combat.

The final week focuses on specialty skills: — sniper operations, offensive driving, surveillance techniques and use of intelligence.

After 20 teams are fielded, CPATT’s SWAT training program will conclude, leaving recruitment, sustainment and training the responsibility of the Iraqi police chiefs.

CPATT will maintain a provincial SWAT training capability, but will transfer it to Ministry of Interior control in December, officials said.

What's been happening in Hunter family housing

Dianne Borges
GMH Military Housing

GMH Military Housing has been busy listening to residents, making improvements, and holding events to make family housing at Hunter Army Airfield the "Southern Living Station of Choice".

GMH believes that as a company and as individuals, it has a duty to provide a quality, well-managed living environment for every resident and attempts to respond to every resident's needs and manage each community and home as if it were its own.

From small to large, GMH continues to make improvements. During the month of January, GMH completed 549 work orders of which 27 were emergencies, 19 were urgent and 503 were routine. Repairs to such items as HVACs, plumbing and water heaters were accomplished. The old tree house in Callaway Circle was removed and the playgrounds were repaired.

Substantial renovations to the first home in Wilson Acres have been completed. It received updates to the kitchen and bathrooms as well as lighting, flooring, paint and carpeting. The same types of renovations are to be completed in seventeen more homes in the coming months.

The construction of new homes remains on track. The first of the new units as well as the new Community Center in New Gannam are expected to

be ready in April. The new homes in New Savannah are going up fast. The first homes are expected to be ready in August.

GMH Community Management doors are always open.

Its friendly teams understand the needs of service members and their families, as many members of the GMH

staff are retired military members as well as spouses of current service members.

As part of the care and concern of its family housing residents, GMH has set up Soldier's House. This three-bedroom house in Gannam Heights has been established as a refuge in case of emergency situations. Should some-

thing occur in a current resident's home, such as a fire or failed plumbing, GMH is able to put them up in this house where they can stay until the emergency is over. With the assistance and kindness of clearing soldiers and their families, Soldier's House is fully furnished including sheets, towels, dishes, pots and pans.

There is no charge to stay at Soldier's House; to GMH it's simply the right thing to do.

For GMH Military Housing, the ultimate objective is to create great communities where soldiers and their families can proudly call home and would wish to remain or return to throughout their military careers.

For those not yet living on base and reaping the benefits, there are two and three bedroom junior-enlisted homes currently available.

Any one with questions or interested in living in family housing, is welcome to contact the GMH Community Management Office at 912-459-2141.



Lt. Col. Joseph Dore, 256th BCT Surgeon, listens to a little boy's respiration. His warm bedside manner is evident as he and the child laugh and play.



Spc. Melodi Holliday applies a splint to a little boy's jammed finger. Holliday is a civilian X-ray technician in Hammond La.

256th medics hold 'element of surprise'

Story and photos by
Spc. Erin Robicheaux
TFB Public Affairs

CAMP TIGERLAND, Baghdad — With no advance warning, medics of the 256th Brigade Combat Team suddenly appear in neighborhoods, bringing medical care to the people of their Baghdad area—whether it's holding treatment clinics or bringing wheelchairs or other supplies to ailing individuals.

"We always try to surprise them when we go," said Lt. Col. Joseph Dore, 256th BCT's Surgeon. The Charlotte, N.C., native said that showing up without warning is safer for the potential patients, because there is a chance that anti-Iraqi forces would try to sabotage the clinic, thus injuring the very people the doctors are trying to heal.

Dore finds that getting there and then making an announcement over a loudspeaker makes for a more effective event.

There is less chance of insurgents attacking if they have no knowledge ahead of time.

Spc. Melodi Holliday from Hammond, La., is a medic with C Company, 199th Forward Support Battalion, and this was her first time working with local nationals and the children of Baghdad continued to surprise her throughout the day.

"They're not like American children," she said, "they almost have an older mentality, and seem like adults in little bodies."

Dore is grateful to be able to help the people in the community, especially knowing that they don't get medical care very often, if ever. For him, a successful medical operation is one where he can see as many patients as possible.

"As long as we can win over some hearts and minds when we do this, it's a success," he said.

For Holliday, an X-ray technician in civilian life, her experiences in Baghdad have shed new light on her occupation in the United States.

"I'm going to take a lot of patience back home with me," she said, "Even though we had interpreters, not being able to speak the same language as the patient was a barrier. It made me appreciate the simplicity of my civilian job, in regards to communication."

The locals of the Bany Zaid community were not the only ones surprised on a recent medical mission.

On the way back to Camp Liberty, the Soldiers of the 256th were anticipating hot showers after being out in the rain all day, when the Plans Officer for 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment noticed something suspicious.

"There was a car in front of us that was going very slowly, and what made me pull it over was that it didn't have a license plate."

Maj. David Gooch, from Abbeville, La., said that the locals usually cooperate with convoys when instructed to get off the road, and when this one did not, he pulled them over. Inside the car were four middle aged men. When instructed, three of the men exited the car quickly, but one stalled.

"I actually thought that searching them would be a pretty quick process, but when I noticed the front passenger fiddling around by his feet, I started to get suspicious."

After searching the vehicle, Gooch and his Soldiers found a shovel with fresh mud on it, a video camera, and some wire and wire cutters.

This may seem like enough evidence to bring the suspects in for questioning, but according to

Gooch, it wasn't enough—at first.

"I almost let them go in the beginning, because I knew that even with all that we'd found, it wouldn't hold up in an Iraqi court."

But he and his Soldiers were persistent, and in no time, the medical team found what it was looking for.

In the glove compartment, Gooch discovered documents with Arabic writing, and he asked his interpreter to translate. The interpreter's reaction was all that the medics needed to hear.

"Arrest them, arrest them!" he shouted. "They're terrorists!"

When the Soldiers began to search the man, his suspicious behavior set off internal alarm bells. It wasn't long before they found evidence of Anti-Iraqi activity.

"Our task force has encountered over 100 IEDs, so we know what they look like," said Gooch.

The Iraqis were also listening to a tape of terrorist propaganda, which confirmed the Soldiers' suspicions that the men were up to no good.

Maj. Rico Alvendia, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the 256th BCT, happened to be part of the capture.

While the New Orleans, La. native can't work on the case because he was involved in the capture, he will still play a role in the legal process, as a witness.

"I think we were fortunate to run into the insurgents on the way back from the medical mission," he said. "They will be prosecuted and I'm looking forward to being a witness."

When asked what he was thinking as they approached the suspects and pulled them over, one Soldier said, "All I thought was, 'Surprise!'"

Soldiers give aid to local children of Baghdad

Story and photos by
Spc. Erin Robicheaux
256th BCT PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Mar. 16 the Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team distributed clothes, toys, and school supplies to the people of the Baghdad area.

The items were sent to the

Soldiers as a result of the Web site www.childrenofbaghdad.com.

The site was created by Staff Sgt. Shaun Warren, Kenner, La., and Sgt. Keith Bonnet, Slidell, La. Both Soldiers are members of the 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery, of the 256th BCT.



Staff Sgt. Shaun Warren and Sgt. Keith Bonnet of the 1/141st FA distribute articles of clothing, toys and school supplies to families who lined up in the streets of Baghdad. The Soldiers have received support and donations from citizens all over the United States.



Sgt. John Roger is the Civilian and Military Operations Noncommissioned officer for A Co. 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment. Here he is making a new friend in Baghdad. Roger was involved in the distribution of hundreds of items to local children in the Baghdad community.



Two little boys triumphantly walk towards their home after accepting gifts of toys and clothes from Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team. Troops from 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery and A Co. 1st Battalion, 156thd Armor Regiment, joined together to distribute the items that were received from donations through the Web site.

Iraqi soldiers' heroism earns coveted 'Cavalry Spurs'

Story and photos by
Spec. Christopher Connelly
42nd Infantry Division

BALAD, Iraq — In every dark cloud there is a silver lining, and Charlie Troop was no exception as Soldiers of 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team and the 203rd Iraqi Army Battalion celebrated an auspicious occasion.

That evening Soldiers of 203rd Iraqi Army Battalion received the Cavalry's highest internal award, the coveted Cavalry Spur, which is only awarded to Soldiers that show exceptional ability and courage, according to Lt. Col. Jody Petery, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment commander.

"This is the first time the 1st BCT, and possibly any cavalry unit, has awarded an Iraqi Battalion the coveted Cavalry Spur," said Petery. The Iraqi Army battalion earned their spurs when they risked their lives on Feb. 13, when 11 members of 3rd Platoon, Charlie Troop who were driving in a convoy at night rolled over a narrow road and into a canal.

This was the last time anyone saw the Soldiers in vehicle two.

Investigators believe the Soldiers' Humvee, rolled over and became submerged in the canal. When the rest of the convoy realized what happened, they began jumping into the freezing water to save the Soldiers.

Not realizing that there was a very fast

undercurrent, the Soldiers kept coming back up for air and praying that they would find them. After a period of time in the fast moving, freezing water, they began to suffer from hypothermia and had to be medically evacuated.

Only three Soldiers of Charlie Troop were left to retrieve their fallen comrades. Then a platoon of Iraqi Soldiers from the 203rd Iraqi Army Battalion showed up. The Iraqi soldiers began to strip down to enter the freezing water but were stopped by Capt. Phillip Poteet, Charlie Troop commander. The Iraqi soldiers however, pleaded with Poteet to let them go into the water and try to find the lost Soldiers.

"If I can just give something back, to show our thanks for everything the U.S.

Soldiers have done for us it would be worth the risk," Iraqi soldier Abdul Mutalib said later.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Military brought in an aircraft filled with metal-detecting equipment, and Navy Seals to find the Soldiers.

Navy Seals combed the canal for hours unsuccessfully, depleting their oxygen tanks.

The Iraqi soldiers ran to a nearby garage and made a tool that looked like a 20-foot long coat rack. They began working both sides of the canal in 10-man teams. They lowered the tool in the water with ropes, dredged, pulled up the tool and then dredged again until they found the Soldiers — who they referred to as their fallen brothers. 1st Lt. Muhammad Borhan, 203rd Iraqi Army

Battalion is one of the brave Iraqi Soldiers who risked his life to find the Soldiers.

"It's not that I am not thankful for this honor," Borhan said of the award. "It is just that they would have done the same thing if it were me down there... I tried to give them life."

The evening included a dinner of Iraqi delicacies and American cuisine. American and Iraqi Soldiers tried the foods of each other's country, and laughed and talked like old friends.

The Soldiers of Charlie Troop were full of smiles, and the Iraqi soldiers looked as though a large weight was lifted from their shoulders.

This night there was no sign of the past, but only a glimpse of the future.

UAVs eagle eye view from the sky

Story and photos by
Sgt. Roy Henry
Ga. NG Public Affairs

In days gone bye, when Savannah's 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery wanted "eyes on the enemy" it was up to Soldiers known as forward observers, using binoculars, radios, maps and a compass to find the opposing force and rain down upon them death and destruction.

Now, instead of putting those Soldiers in harms way, that task falls to new technology such as the Raven, one of several unmanned aerial vehicles used by the U.S. military to find the bad guys and reveal their whereabouts.

The 118th and other elements of the 48th BCT are training with the Raven regularly as they prepare for the upcoming deployment to Iraq.

The 48th is at Fort Stewart getting ready to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in May. With more than 4,000 Soldiers involved, this deployment is the largest of its kind since World War II. The brigade is expected to be gone for, at least, one year.

"We'll be using them as our 'eyes in the sky,'" said Sgt. Steven Betka, a forward observ-



As skies above Forward Operating Base Oliver clear, Combat Observation Lasering teams one and two check equipment and the weather before launching one of two Raven UAVs. The UAVs provide Soldiers an "eye in the sky."

er with the 118th's Headquarters Battery. "Not only does it give us real time battlefield intelligence, it's capabilities provide that extra link in the security net around the Forward Operating Base that we'll be working out of in Iraq," Betka said.

Betka and Staff Sgt. Robert Lewis, a fellow observer, are now mission controllers on the unit's two Combat Observation Lasering Teams or COLTs as they're called. They plan the missions on which the Raven is used based on information given

them by the battalion's S-2 or Intelligence Section.

The job of piloting the Raven falls to specialists Kevin Brigman and Chris Kent.

These two, computer savvy Soldiers are ideal for the job because it's their generation which has grown up playing today's video games, Betka said.

"Couldn't ask for a better match to equipment like this," Lewis added. "Brigman and Kent know what it takes to 'fly this bird by the wire,' and bring

it back down in one piece."

Outwardly, the Raven looks like any radio controlled airplane one may have seen flown at parks or empty fields around one's community, Betka said.

But unlike its civilian counterpart, this small, almost glider-like aircraft is full of sophisticated electronic and intelligence gathering equipment that can be talked about.

"What I can tell you is that, on our last flight, its surveillance gear spotted a house full of 'bad guys' from 560-feet in



Sergeant Steven Betka goes through the Raven's pre-flight check shortly before launch

the air, and before they knew it; the 'enemy' was decimated by artillery fire," he explained with a smile on his face.

"It's so good, that we can get the rounds as close as 12 to 25 meters," Kent said.

"It's a great tool, and it's one that we're going to be using for quite a long time, Kent said."

As good a tool as the Raven is, it doesn't mean the forward observers won't ever have to fall back on human talent, said Brigman as he looked up from his monitoring station.

From time to time the COLT teams may be asked to enter the battlefield and find the

enemy or even locate friendly forces using old fashion methods.

"It's not like something cannot happen to the UAV or that it may not be available," Brigman said. "So we continue to keep the skills we've learned sharp and our radios, maps and compasses at the ready."

Avoiding putting Soldiers at risk by using today's technology such as the Raven certainly makes sense, the COLT teams agreed.

After all, crashing or losing an estimated \$36,000 radio-controlled plane is better than losing the life of a Soldier.

Army ————— **From Page 1A**
ing in Afghanistan with the 76th Brigade, who is in charge of training the Afghan National Army.

"In the middle of the briefing, I suddenly realized that it was a National Guard unit and there was no difference in the organization, the dedication, or the commitment," he said.

He went on to compliment the contributions of the National Guard and Reserve units involved in the war on terror by saying that all Soldiers, active duty or otherwise, realize that they are a part of something important and that they are spreading democracy and freedom. He mentioned that he has also heard talk from Guard and Reserve Soldiers of making a permanent transition to active duty.

Retention, then, is not a problem for any aspect of the Army. Harvey says where the challenge comes in is recruiting.

"We're cautiously optimistic. We're putting a lot more recruiters out there and we're increasing incentives" he said.

He admits that it is a challenge, but says the Department of the Army is not giving up. The active duty component is up to 94 percent of its goal, while the Reserves are hitting 90 percent and the National Guard is reaching 75 percent.

"It's only March and we're talking about a goal (to reach) at the end of the year, and we're working very hard to do that," Harvey said.

The Secretary of the Army praised the United States' forces for the job that they have done to help the Iraqi people in rebuilding their homes, rebuilding their security force, and rebuilding their government. He enlightened the Soldiers on the big picture of the projects that they have personally participated in, and gave an overall spectrum of the events of reconstruction. In the past four months, growth has occurred so rapidly that the projects have jumped from 200 in December, to 2,000 to date.

The military, and security overall, in the country of Iraq has grown

significantly due to the presence of Multi-National Forces, according to Harvey.

For example, 150,000 Iraqi troops are trained, equipped, and organized into 96 battalions, with a projected 50,000 preparing for training. The goal is to have 300,000 security personnel, and Harvey attributes this to the teamwork of Iraq and the United States.

"We're starting along that line of doing it together and eventually, they will do it alone, and this is just tremendous progress in the area of security and stability," he said.

In addition, the Iraqi government has seen great success, according to Harvey, first with the elections, and recently, with the first meeting of the Iraqi Interim National Assembly.

Following the breakfast, Harvey viewed a demonstration by 612th Eng. Bn. of the 36th Eng. Group on the "Buffalo," a minesweeping vehicle that is the latest technology for effectively recognizing improvised explosive devices.

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Bowling and Golf
Free bowling and shoe rental at Marne and Hunter Lanes, 1 — 5 p.m., the last Saturday of the month, for Soldiers and family members.
No golf fees at Taylors Creek and Hunter Courses from 1 — 5 p.m., the last Thursday of every month. Golf cart rental, \$7 per person for 9 holes or \$12 for 18 holes.

Library
Read a Poem to Your Sweetheart — Schedule a 30 minute appointment to record a DVD of you reading to your sweetheart, from 1 to 8:30 p.m.

Easter Holiday Brunch
Club Stewart offers a Sunday brunch every week. The public is always welcome. On Easter Sunday, Mar. 27, there will be three seatings starting at 10:30 a.m., noon, and 1:30 p.m.
The price for adults is \$11.95 (\$10.95 with church bulletin); children ages 9 - 11, half price; and children under 9 are free.
For more information, or to make reservations, call 368-2122

Army Hooah Race
Soldiers, civilians, family members and friends of the Army are

invited to participate in the 4th Annual Army Hooah Race Jun. 11.
The race starts at 7:30 a.m. in the metro-Atlanta area. Come and enjoy the fun.
For more information, call Sgt. Maj. William Bissonette at (404) 464-8228 or by e-mail at william.bissonette@us.army.mil.

Shoes for tots
1/64 Armor BN is sponsoring a "Shoe for Tots" drive for Iraqi children. Shoes should be in mint condition, all sizes needed. Drop off point is at Battalion headquarters 1/64 Armor, Bldg. 524, William H. Wilson Avenue. Collection ends on Apr. 1.
Shoes can be dropped of anytime during that period. Point of contacts for this drive are B Co 1/64 FRG leaders Teri French and Maike Seymour.
For more information, contact Maike Seymour @ 877-7466.

Easter
The Hinesville community is invited to attend "You Are the Christ," Area Mass Choir Concert tomorrow at 7:30 p.m., at First presbyterian Church in Hinesville.
For more information on this or other activities, call 876-3670.

Hunter

Tax Center
Tax Center is now open to assist military ID card holders prepare their tax returns. The center can file your return electronically, and arrange direct deposit of refunds. Preparers can assist while you wait, or drop-off your return, and pick it up when it is ready to file. The tax center is at the legal center, located in Bldg 1211, directly across from the Garrison Headquarters, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., weekdays.
For more information, call 303-3675/3697.

Fundraiser
The AER Fundraising Campaign runs Mar. 1 through Apr. 15. Your contributions help Soldiers and their families in financial need. See your unit rep to fill out a contribution slip or call AER Officer Doris Clark at 352-5301.

Youth Programs
Before-and-after school care for grades 1-5, rates based on income, 6-9 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. weekdays. Teen program for grades 6-12, from 3 - 6 p.m. weekdays, is free. Sessions include homework help, snacks, technology and crafts labs, and athletics activities.

Dinner & a Movie
For all family members at HAAF, not just those living on post.

Saturday, Apr. 23, Hunter Club, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. If you wish to attend, contact your FRG leader or Mr. Sanders at sandersd@savannahredcross.org no later than April 18.

Flu Shot Program Expanded
Tuttle Army Health Clinic has a flu shot clinic each Thursday, from 1 to 3 p.m. Flu vaccine is available to all DOD civilians, service members, military retirees, and dependents.
For more information, call Preventive Medicine at 370-5071/ 5101.

Soldiers Inn Dining Facility
All are welcome for breakfast, lunch & dinner served 7 days weekly. Open to Soldiers, civilians, guests and the general public. Call 352-2538 for information.

Easter Brunch
3 seatings: 10:30 a.m., Noon, & 1:30 p.m., 353-7923 for reservations
\$11.95 adults; ages 9 – 12, eat for half; under age 9 eat FREE

ESL Classes
Basic and Intermediate-level English as a Second Language classes are free at the Hunter Army Airfield Education Center. Call 352-6130 to find out when and where the next class meets.

Winn /Tuttle

Walk to Winn Program
This 12-week walking program is designed to increase activity, water intake and fruit and vegetable consumption. Registration has begun and spaces are limited.
For more information, call 370-5071 to reserve your place.

Volunteer Orientation
The next mandatory volunteer orientation at Winn will be held 9 - 11 a.m. Apr. 7 in Patriot Auditorium. Volunteers are welcome and needed in a variety of capacities at Winn.
For more information, call 370-6903 or send an email to [Brigitte .roberts@se.amedd.army.mil](mailto:Brigitte.roberts@se.amedd.army.mil).

Nutrition Display/Screening at PX
In observance of national nutrition month, a nutrition display and health screening will be available at the Hunter PX 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. today.

EDIS
Military families with children up to 3 years old who may be at risk for developmental delays can call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services for a free screening.
Services include home visits, occupational therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, speech and language


therapy, vision and hearing screenings, family training, developmental screenings and assessments. For more information, call 370-6370.

Newborn TRICARE Prime
Parents now have 60 days from the date of birth to enroll their newborn in TRICARE Prime. If the 60-day window is not met, the child will be automatically enrolled in TRICARE Standard.
You must enroll your child in DEERS before you can enroll into TRICARE.
For more information, 767-4909 or 352-5726. Call TRICARE at 1-800-444-5445.

New Tuttle Pharmacy Hours
The pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday and Friday. It is open 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 2 to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays. It is closed weekends and federal holidays.

TRICARE Phone Numbers
For general health care information, you can call the Humana Military Audio Library at 877-217-7946. For more information of if you have questions about TRICARE, you can call TRICARE at 800-444-5445 or the Health Benefits Office at 370-6633 or 800-652-9221.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Civilian, 25-year-old female.
 - **Charges:** Reckless driving (89/55), failure to display headlights after dark.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 19-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charge:** Larceny of private property.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
 - **Subject:** Private, 24-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
 - **Charges:** Wrongful possession of cocaine, wrongful use of cocaine.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
 - **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charge:** Wrongful possession of marijuana.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 42-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charges:** Failure to obey a lawful order, failure to obey traffic control device.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
 - **Subject:** Sergeant 1st Class, 32-year-old male, separate unit.
 - **Charge:** Driving under the influence.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
 - **Subject:** Sergeant, 23-year-old male, Fires Bde.
 - **Charges:** Wrongful use of drugs.
 - **Location:** Crossville, Ala.
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 37-year-old male, separate unit.
 - **Charges:** Driving under the influence, failure to maintain lane.
 - **Location:** Bloomingdale.
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- 
 - **Charge:** Open container.
 - **Location:** Savannah.
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 28-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
 - **Charge:** Failure to obey a general order.
 - **Location:** Hunter.
 - **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old male, 1st Bde.
 - **Charge:** Failure to obey lawful order.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
 - **Subject:** Civilian, 34-year-old female.
 - **Charge:** Excessive speed 38/15.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charge:** Drunk driving.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
 - **Subject:** Private, 23-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charge:** Indecent exposure.
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart.
 - **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, separate unit.
 - **Charges:** Reckless driving, driving under the influence, underage drinking, open container.
 - **Location:** Hinesville.
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate unit.
 - **Charges:** Possession of marijuana, fighting in public place.
 - **Location:** Savannah.
 - **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old male, separate unit.
 - **Charges:** Driving under the influence, failure to report accident, driving wrong way on one way street.
 - **Location:** Savannah.

Fort Stewart better the quality of life while Soldiers are deployed



Dina McKain
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Approximately \$14 million has been received by the installation to continue the modernization of facilities, a significant portion of which will upgrade the Central Energy Plant here.

The funds are part of \$260 million the Army has earmarked to upgrade deficient barracks, and ensure adequate, healthy, safe quality of life facilities for our Soldiers.

These projects will be accomplished while the 3rd Infantry Division is deployed so not to disrupt Soldier's lives or their mission once they return from supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The CEP modernization project started in 1998 in a phased approach with a plan to replace the high temperature water piping infrastructure that provides heating, air conditioning, and hot water to barracks, motor pools, dental clinics, dining facilities, gyms, warehouses, and company and battalion headquarters via an underground piping system that has failed resulting in excessive leaks and heat loss.

The new piping has an estimated life of 40 to 50 years, and the use of shallow trenching will reduce the maintenance cost of the new system.

The modernization project plan also includes converting some buildings to natural gas, and upgrading the CEP's wood handling yard.

Fort Stewart's CEP is the only wood burning boiler in the Army. It uses scrap wood chips from the installation's timber harvest, reducing the amount of natural gas or fuel oil used.

The cost of the wood chips is approximately one-third of the other fuels resulting in a cost avoidance of \$1.5 to \$3.0 million per year.

This process not only saves money, but it is recycling scrap (wood chips), minimizing the impact of the environment (reduced pollutants), and uses a renewable source (wood) for energy.

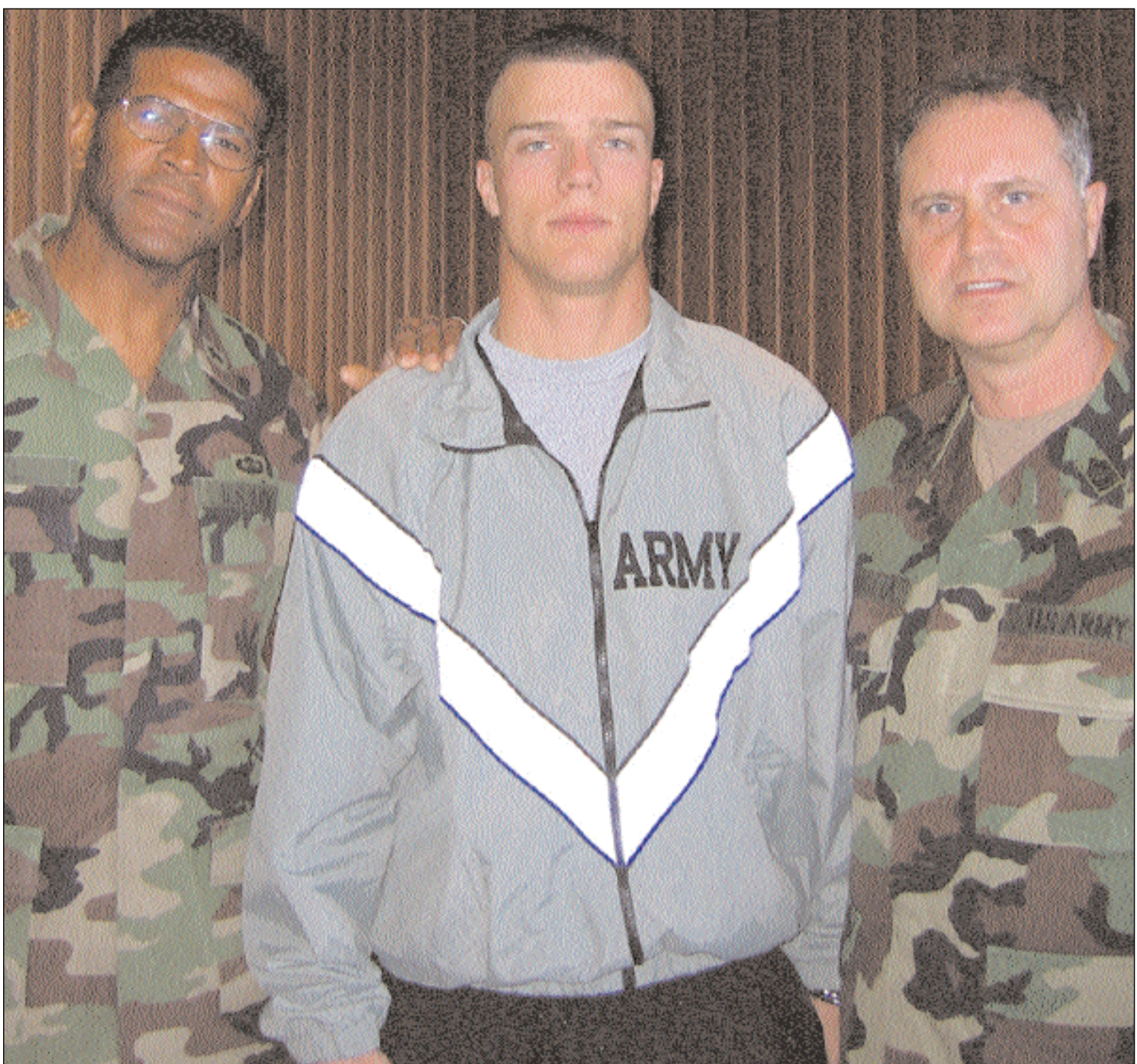
This Week in Pictures



Photos by Spc. Matthew Wester
Staff Sgt. Daniel D. Gililland, sniper for Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, provides security on the roof of an Iraqi Police station in the Sha'ab area of Baghdad while officers from his unit meet with Iraqi officers downstairs.



Sgt. Jonathan Wolford, Alpha Company, 70th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, scans a road from the turret of an armored personnel carrier during an IED sweep in northern Baghdad.



Courtesy Photo

In good hands...

(Left to Right) Chap. (Maj.) David S. Dail, Fires Brigade, Spc. James Hicks, 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Bde., and Command Sgt. Maj. Sam Perrotta, rear detachment division sergeant major, pose for a picture during a visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, Mar. 2 - 4. Dail and Perrotta visited the 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers that are wounded being taken care of at Walter Reed. "I want to thank the staff that is taking good care of our Soldiers," Perrotta said. "All the Soldiers have high morale."

Task Force Liberty roll on with up armored vehicles

Master Sgt. Corine Lombardo
42nd Inf. Div.

FOB DANGER, TIKRIT, IRAQ — Soldiers of Task Force Liberty deployed into Iraq better prepared for the mission than their predecessors, and they continue to strengthen their capabilities each day.

In addition to a full complement of individual body armor, which includes Kevlar helmets and eye protection far greater in capability and numbers than any prior troop rotation into the-

ater, Task Force Liberty Soldiers' greatest strength is its armor protection for its fleet of Humvees. Humvees transport the vast majority of Soldiers on the roads of Iraq.

The greater majority of all Humvees in North Central Iraq have either Level 1, 2 or 3 armor protection.

The remaining few unarmored Humvees were transported from Kuwait into Iraq on flatbed trucks, to avoid placing Soldiers in unarmored vehicles. This small number of Humvees fulfill the administrative and support

requirements on the well-protected operating bases and do not depart the base for combat missions, said Task Force commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto.

Level 1 armor for Humvees are those vehicles produced at the factory with all the protective measures installed. These continue to arrive in theater and are issued to units as rapidly as they are received. Since arriving in Iraq, Task Force Liberty has added over 200 Level 1 Humvees to the nearly 1,000 left behind by the previous division task force, giving the 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty an almost 25 percent increase in capabilities over the preceding division.

Level 2 armor provides for much of the same individual protection and is provided as an add-on-armor kit in the Army supply chain. Task Force Liberty logistics and maintenance Soldiers in North Central Iraq continue every day to add these kits to the balance of their vehicles.

Level 3 armor, depicted so frequently as welded metal plates, is designed to protect Soldiers against the fragmentation of improvised explosive devices, the most lethal weapon used against troops in Task Force Liberty. While less effective against direct fire attacks, they are invaluable in protecting Soldiers against the hazards of shrapnel and fragmentation from IED detonations. Currently,

Task Force Liberty includes over 70 percent Level 1 or Level 2 Humvees for combat patrols and combat logistics patrols. As the availability of Level 1 and Level 2 armored vehicles continues to increase, fewer level 3 vehicles are employed in operations.

While staged on bases in Kuwait, 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty Soldiers, with the expert help of the 699th Maintenance Company and 276th Maintenance Battalion, installed much of the add-on-armor.

All vehicles received their necessary armor installation before moving north into Iraq to conduct combat operations.

"Once they get up north, their commanders designate which vehicles will be out on the

road, all the time, doing patrols," said Sgt. First Class Kenney, platoon sergeant and chief of the 699th's Service and Recovery section. "It depends on what your mission is. Then they may get Level 2 or Level 1 Armor." Level 1 Armor and Level 2 Armor are factory built and come with ballistic glass, he added.

Task Force Liberty Soldiers provided the basic labor for the maintenance companies' Soldiers, who welded the Level 3 Armor to the vehicles, Kenney said. He sees the armor installation as another example of Soldiers adapting in order to accomplish their missions.

Assisting in the armor installation was Sgt. Niko Oliver, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Infantry Division, which is the command and control unit for Task Force Liberty. The armor saves Soldiers' lives, Oliver said.

"I feel 100 percent safer with [the armor on]," Oliver said. "It'll help keep our manpower intact. It means another Soldier looking out for Iraqi interests, another Soldier to keep Iraqis safe."

The posture for armored vehicles is equally impressive for the fleet of heavier trucks, those used for logistics movements throughout the area of operations.

While there currently is no Level 1 protection for the Army's heavy trucks, the Department of the Army has recently introduced Level 2 add-on-armor kits to supplant the Level 3 armor currently being used.

These Level 2 kits are now in the Army's supply system and are being installed by maintenance and logistics Soldiers as they are received in North Central Iraq.

"I could not be more pleased with the performance of our logisticians in providing the men and women of the 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty the best possible force protection of the fleet," said Taluto.

"Even before this add-on-armor program achieves its pinnacle, over 80 percent of our fleet of heavy trucks currently provide Level 2 or Level 3 armor protection for the crew," he said.



File Photo

The Army is achieving its goal of up-armoring its tactical vehicles. The great majority of vehicles achieve levels 1,2 and 3 of protection.